

Optimization notes

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Directional derivative

From a starting point \underline{x}_0 and a given direction \underline{u} :

- $\underline{x}(\lambda) = \underline{x}_0 + \lambda \underline{u}$
 - λ is a scalar.
- $d\underline{x} = \underline{u}d\lambda$
 - For a small change in λ .
- $F(\lambda) = f(\underline{x}_0 + \lambda \underline{u})$

$$\begin{aligned}dF &= df = (\nabla f(\underline{x}))^\top d\underline{x} \\&= (\nabla f(\underline{x}))^\top \underline{u}d\lambda = \nabla^\top f \underline{u} \lambda\end{aligned}$$

- $\frac{df}{d\lambda} = \nabla^\top f \underline{u}$
 - If f is minimized at $\underline{x}^* = \underline{x}_0 + \lambda \underline{u}$, then:
 - $\nabla f(\underline{x}^*)^\top \underline{u} = 0$
 - gradient f evaluated at the minimum point is orthogonal to \underline{u} .

Weierstrass Theorem

If $f(\underline{x})$ is continuous on a nonempty feasible set that is closed and bounded, then $f(\underline{x})$ has a global minimum in this set.

- ▶ A set S is bounded if for any point \underline{x} in S , we have $\underline{x}^T \underline{x} < c$
 - ▶ c is a finite positive number.

Single-variable unconstrained optimization

- Necessary condition
 - If a function $f(x)$ has a local minimum at $x = x^*$, and $f'(x)$ exists as a finite number at $x = x^*$, then $f'(x^*) = 0$.
 - x^* at $f'(x^*) = 0$ is called stationary point.
- Sufficient condition
 - Suppose $f'(x^*) = f''(x^*) = \dots = f^{(m-1)}(x^*) = 0$, but $f^{(m-1)}(x^*) \neq 0$, then $f(x^*)$ is:
 - 1. a local minimum if $f^{(m-1)}(x^*) > 0$ and m is even.
 - 2. a local maximum if $f^{(m-1)}(x^*) < 0$ and m is even.
 - 3. neither a maximum nor a minimum if m is odd.

Multi-variable unconstrained optimization (1)

Definition of r^{th} differential of function f :

$$d^r f(\underline{x}^*) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \cdots \sum_{k=1}^n h_i h_j \cdots h_k \frac{\partial^r f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j \cdots \partial x_k}$$

Example

When (order) $r = 2$ and (number of variables) $n = 3$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} d^2 f(\underline{x}^*) &= d^2 f(x_1^*, x_2^*, x_3^*) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 h_i h_j \frac{\partial^2 f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \\ &= h_1^2 \frac{\partial^2 f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_1^2} + h_2^2 \frac{\partial^2 f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_2^2} + h_3^2 \frac{\partial^2 f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_3^2} \\ &\quad + 2h_1 h_2 \frac{\partial^2 f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} + 2h_2 h_3 \frac{\partial^2 f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_2 \partial x_3} + 2h_1 h_3 \frac{\partial^2 f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_1 \partial x_3} \end{aligned}$$

Multi-variable unconstrained optimization (2)

- Necessary condition

$$\frac{\partial f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_2} = \dots = \frac{\partial f(\underline{x}^*)}{\partial x_n} = 0$$

- In vector form, $\nabla f(\underline{x}^*) = 0$.
- \underline{x}^* at $\nabla f(\underline{x}^*) = 0$ is called stationary point.
- Sufficient condition
 - For a stationary point at $\underline{x} = \underline{x}^*$:
 - if the Hessian matrix of $f(\underline{x})$ evaluated at $\underline{x} = \underline{x}^*$ is **positive definite**, then \underline{x}^* is a local minimum.
 - if the Hessian matrix of $f(\underline{x})$ evaluated at $\underline{x} = \underline{x}^*$ is **negative definite**, then \underline{x}^* is a local maximum.